

Application No. : 10/099,645
Filed : March 14, 2002

SPECIES ELECTION

Applicant herein elects with traverse Species 2 (Figs. 2a-2f) for further prosecution in the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that pending Claims 1-28, 43 and 45 read on the elected species.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 2b of the drawings as shown in the enclosed proposed drawing amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 29-42, 44 and 46 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 were pending in the application. By this paper, Applicant has cancelled Claims 29-42, 44 and 46 without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 1-28, 43 and 45 are presented herein for examination.

Restriction Election

Applicant herein elects the invention of Group I, drawn to a connector assembly, including Claims 1-28, 43 and 45, without traverse, for further prosecution in the present application. Applicant specifically reserves its right to prosecute any non-elected inventions as part of a continuation or divisional application.

Species Election

Applicant hereinabove elected Species 2 (Figs. 2a-2f) with traverse. Applicant's traversal is directed to the Examiner's description of Species 1 and 2. The Examiner refers to "Specie 1 –

Fig. 1" on pg. 3 of the Office Action (the term "Fig. 1" as used by the Examiner is assumed by Applicant to refer to the *family* of Fig. 1x drawings, since there is no Fig. 1 *per se* in the application). Applicant points out that the embodiment of Figs. 2a-2f generally comprises a multi-column configuration of the embodiment of Fig. 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the
5 Examiner's assertion that none of the claims are generic to these two embodiments. Claim 1 (and at least portions of its dependency) can be read on either embodiment.

Hence, Applicant requests that the species restriction with respect to Species 1 and 2 be withdrawn, and Claims 1-28, 43, and 45 be examined on the merits.

10 *Proposed Drawing Amendments*

Applicant by this paper submits proposed amendments to the drawings (Fig. 2b) to clarify the representation. Specifically, Fig. 2b has been modified to correct one or more drawing deficiencies, and make it a more accurate representation of the embodiment described in the specification. Applicant submits that these amendments add no new matter, but rather merely
15 clarify the existing subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the standing requirement for "redlining" (i.e., red ink) be held in abeyance for this proposed amendment, since by Applicant's judgment, the use of red ink would to reflect the various additions and deletions of lines on the drawings would only add confusion to the Examiner's understanding of the changes.

20 *Other Remarks*

Applicant hereby specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation or divisional application.

Applicant notes that any claim cancellations or additions made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention and
25 responding to the aforementioned restriction election, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such cancellations or additions.

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If the Examiner has any questions or comments that may be resolved over the telephone, he/she is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 675-1670.

Respectfully submitted,

GAZDZINSKI & ASSOCIATES

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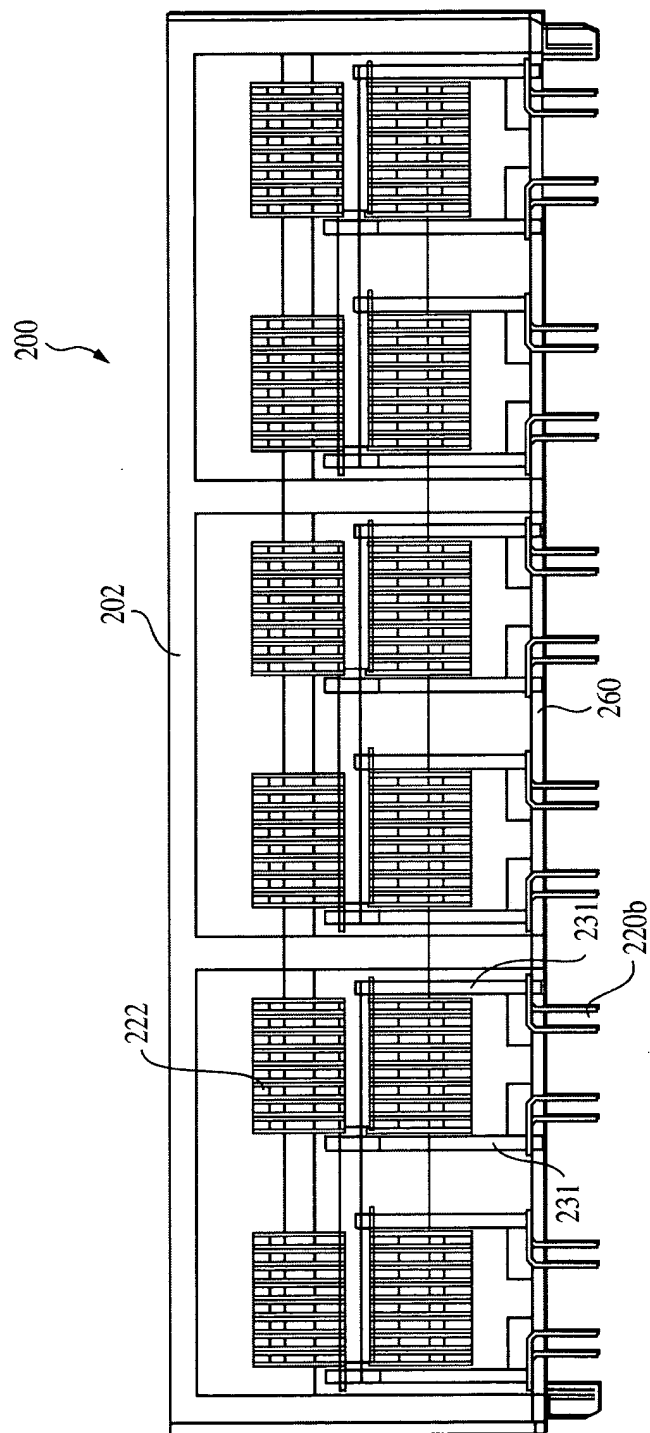


FIG. 2b